Setting up of new tourist centres

†1353. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up number of tourist centres in the country simultaneously; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) With a view to providing an elevating image of India's culture and promoting healthy and sustainable tourism, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has drawn up proposals to develop hubs which synthesize the elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life. There would be at least one such hub in every State and Union Territory.

Village Tourism

1354. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to develop at least one village from each State as a tourist destination with a view to promote village tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the criteria for the identification of the villages;

(d) the village identified from the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps being taken to develop the village as tourist destination?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India has proposed a scheme to develop rural tourism in the country in the Tenth Five Year Plan. State Governments were requested to furnish one proposal for promotion of rural tourism. On receipt of the preliminary proposals from the State Governments,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Department of Tourism so far has identified ten rural tourism projects based on the merits of proposals during the year 2002-03. Under the scheme, a maximum amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs is proposed for rural tourism projects based on the merits of the proposals.

(d) and (e) Department of Tourism has identified Pochampalli in Andhra Pradesh as Rural Tourism Development Project.

Wildlife and forest tourism in Gujarat

1355. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote wildlife and forest tourism in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the steps taken to tap the tourist potential;

(c) whether any plan has been prepared by the State Government and submitted to Central Government for financial assistance to develop tourist infrastructure in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat informed the Central Government that in close co-operation with the State Department of Forests and Environment, the State Government have taken steps to develop wildlife and forest tourism at Gir Wild Life Sanctuary, Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Wild Ass Sanctuary in Surendranagar, Sloath Bear Sanctuary in Panchmahal and as well as to develop forest tourism in Dang.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Gujarat submitted two projects seeking Central Financial Assistance for development of tourist infrastructure in the State during the current financial year 2002-2003. The details of the Project and amount sanctioned are listed below: